during the last three years on the projects falling fully/partly in the State of Himachal Pradesh is as under:—

(Figures in Crore of Rupees)

Year	Outlay	Expenditure	Percentage
2003-04	34.15	45.33	132.7
2004-05	45.12	66.91	148.3
2005-06	101.08	108.38	107.2

Commission vendors

1308. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question No. 404 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th May, 2006 and state whether Government would agree to issue vending licences to existing commissions vendors on payment of reasonable licence fees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Licences of catering vending stalls can be allotted to eligible applicants, who fulfill the criteria for such allotments as per Revised Catering Policy, 2005. Existing commission vendors can also apply for allotment of stalls as per the eligibility criteria.

Buddhist tourist circuit

1309. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have launched a Buddhist tourist circuit;

(b) if so, the details and purpose thereof; and

(c) the success so far, registered in this venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (b) In order to facilitate and make conversant the Foreigner and Indian tourists with Lord Buddha's religious places, a fully air-conditioned train with on-board/off-board catering and house keeping arrangements, road

transfer by air conditioned vehicles, sightseeing, Darshan, visit to holy places, etc. is scheduled to run as Maha Parinirvan Special w.e.f. 28.03.2007 covering Lumbini, Sarnath, Bodhgaya, Kushinagar, Nalanda, Sravasti and also Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri in Agra. Indian Railway Tourism and Catering Corporation (IRCTC) has planned to run 11 trips during 2007 and other 6 trips in 2008 upto March (depending on its reception) with each trip having a duration of 8 days. The option of undertaking partial journey for a minimum duration of 3 nights is also available to the passengers.

(c) For its successful run IRCTC has made all out efforts for marketing, wide publicity and enquiry redressal system.

Introduction of new goods trains

†1310. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new goods trains introduced by the Railways during the last three years and at what levels these were introduced and the quantum of goods in meteric tonns, transported by the railway during these years and the funds earned by the Railways;

(b) whether Government are also paying attention towards protection of the goods trains, if so, the criteria therefor; and

(c) whether the concerned officers have been consulted with regard to the protection of the goods trains and whether attention was paid to its technical aspects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Goods trains are not operated on a prescribed time table like passenger trains. Goods trains are loaded as per demands placed by Railway users. The total freight loading and earnings thereof for the last three years are as follows:

year	No. of wagons loaded per day (Broad Gauge)	Loading in million tonnes	Freight earnings in crores
2003-04	65490	557.39	27646.15
2004-05	70615	602.78	30844.13
2005-06	75552	667.39	35971.17

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.